

REMARKS

Claims 1,2 and 5-18, as amended, remain herein.

New claims 17 and 18 are added. Claim 17 is supported by Figs. 1, 4, 15 and 16 and the corresponding portions of the specification, and Claim 18 is supported by Figs. 15 and 16 and the corresponding portions of the specification.

1. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ichiro Japanese Patent Application Publication 2002-213910 (JP '910) in view of Okumura Japanese Patent Application Publication 2001-165609 (JP '609).

Applicants' presently-claimed invention comprises a ferromagnetic body that encircles a magnet and is incorporated in and rotatable with a detecting rotator. See claim 1, Figs. 1-4. Ichiro JP '910 does not disclose, teach, or suggest a ferromagnetic body that encircles a magnet and is incorporated in and rotatable with a detecting rotator.

Likewise, Okumura JP '609 does not disclose, teach or suggest a ferromagnetic body that encircles a magnet and is incorporated in and rotatable with a detecting rotator. Okumura describes a magnetic shield 70 that covers a screw shaft 30a, a magnet M2 and a sensor H2, and that is fixed as a result of being pressed by a spring 74 via case 11. See Okumura JP '609, Figs. 1-2 and paragraph 0040.

Thus there is no disclosure or suggestion of applicants' claimed invention in either of Ichiro JP '910 or Okumura JP '609, and there is nothing in either of those references that would have suggested combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest

applicants' presently claimed invention. Even in view of those disclosures, one of ordinary skill in this art would not have imagined the space-saving construction of applicants' claimed invention. For all the foregoing reasons, applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 8-12, 15 and 16, and allowance thereof.

2. Claims 6, 13, 7, and 14 were rejected under §103(a) over Ichiro JP '910 and Okumura JP '609, further in view of Bergstedt U.S. Patent 5,602,472.

As admitted in the Office Action, "Ichiro and Okumura do not explicitly disclose that the first ferromagnetic body comprises a ring-shaped iron plate or pieces arranged in the form of a ring (as in claims 7 and 14)." Furthermore, Bergstedt does not disclose, teach or suggest a ferromagnetic body that encircles a magnet and is incorporated in and rotatable with a detecting rotator, just as neither of Ichiro JP '910 or Okumura JP '609 disclosed such elements and combination thereof.

Thus, for the reasons discussed above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching of the subject matter of applicants' claims 6, 13, 7, and 14 in either of Ichiro JP '910 and/or Okumura JP '609, and Bergstedt does not disclose what is lacking in either of the JP '910 and/or JP '609 references. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Ichiro JP'910, Okumura JP '609, or Bergstedt which would have suggested combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 6, 13, 7, and 14, and allowance of those claims are respectfully requested.


For all the foregoing reasons, all claims 1, 2 and 5-18 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2177)

Should the Examiner believe that any further change would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Parkhurst", is written over a horizontal line.

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